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Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona is surrounded by securitymen while he signs autographs for fans at the Hotel Carrera in Santiago, Chile on Tuesday. — AFP photo

Saudis get a royal welcome

WASHINGTON, May 18: With exactly one month to go before the World Cup kicks-off in Chicago, the first team arrived in the United States on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

A somewhat startled Saudi Arabian squad flew into Washington's Dulles International Airport on a private plane to a small but noisy greeting from embassy staff and local Saudi children clutching soccer balls and waving flags.

"It was a sort of a crazy scene because the World Cup people didn't know the press had been invited along too," said one source linked to the team.

The media were waiting for the players and their recently-appointed Argentine coach Jorge Solari as they walked to a chartered Boeing 727 for the flight to the New Jersey seaside gambling resort of Atlantic City.

"The players weren't expecting anything more than to get off the shuttle bus and on to the plane but they got a kick out of the kids and flags," said the source.

A team spokesman said the players, who are staying at a hotel about 12 miles (18 km) from Atlantic City, had a practice session in the afternoon and would start training in earnest on Wednesday with morning and evening workouts.

"We know our first match will be difficult but we have played many matches and will be ready for that one," midfielder Fuad Awar told Reuters. The Saudis play the Netherlands in their first match in Washington on June 20.

The reception of the Saudi players, who play a friendly against the United States on May 25, on arriving for their first World Cup was a marked contrast to the general level of interest with just one month now remaining.

The New York Times, in a rare front page article on the World Cup last Sunday, asked readers how "The country with the world's smallest interest in soccer would react."

"Will Americans sit up and take notice or will the World Cup pass with the fleeting novelty of a solar eclipse?" it questioned, adding that much depended on the young US

Sacchi's reputation at stake

ROME, May 18: Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi has seen his carefully laid plans go horribly wrong with the World Cup finals in sight, reports Reuters.

The meticulous Sacchi guided the three-times world champions to the finals during a run of just one defeat in 19 games after taking over the squad in October 1991.

But Italy's claim to a place among the pre-tournament favourites was dented by successive defeats against France and defending champions Germany.

"This is the most difficult moment since I was given the job," Sacchi, 48, confessed after that humiliation.

A slight, bald-headed man, the Italian talks on tactics with an evangelist's fervour have won plenty of converts to his adventurous coaching methods during his four years at AC Milan.

Brought to the club from then Second Division Parma by tycoon Silvio Berlusconi in 1987, the innovative Sacchi perfected the 'pressing' game with a flat back four adopting a zonal marking system and the other players urged to give opponents no time to dwell on the ball.

Once possession had been won, a superb attack spearheaded by Dutchmen Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit did the rest.

Sacchi's Milan won the league in 1988 and took the European Cup in the next two years, his tactics helping to change the face of an Italian game previously stifled by caution.

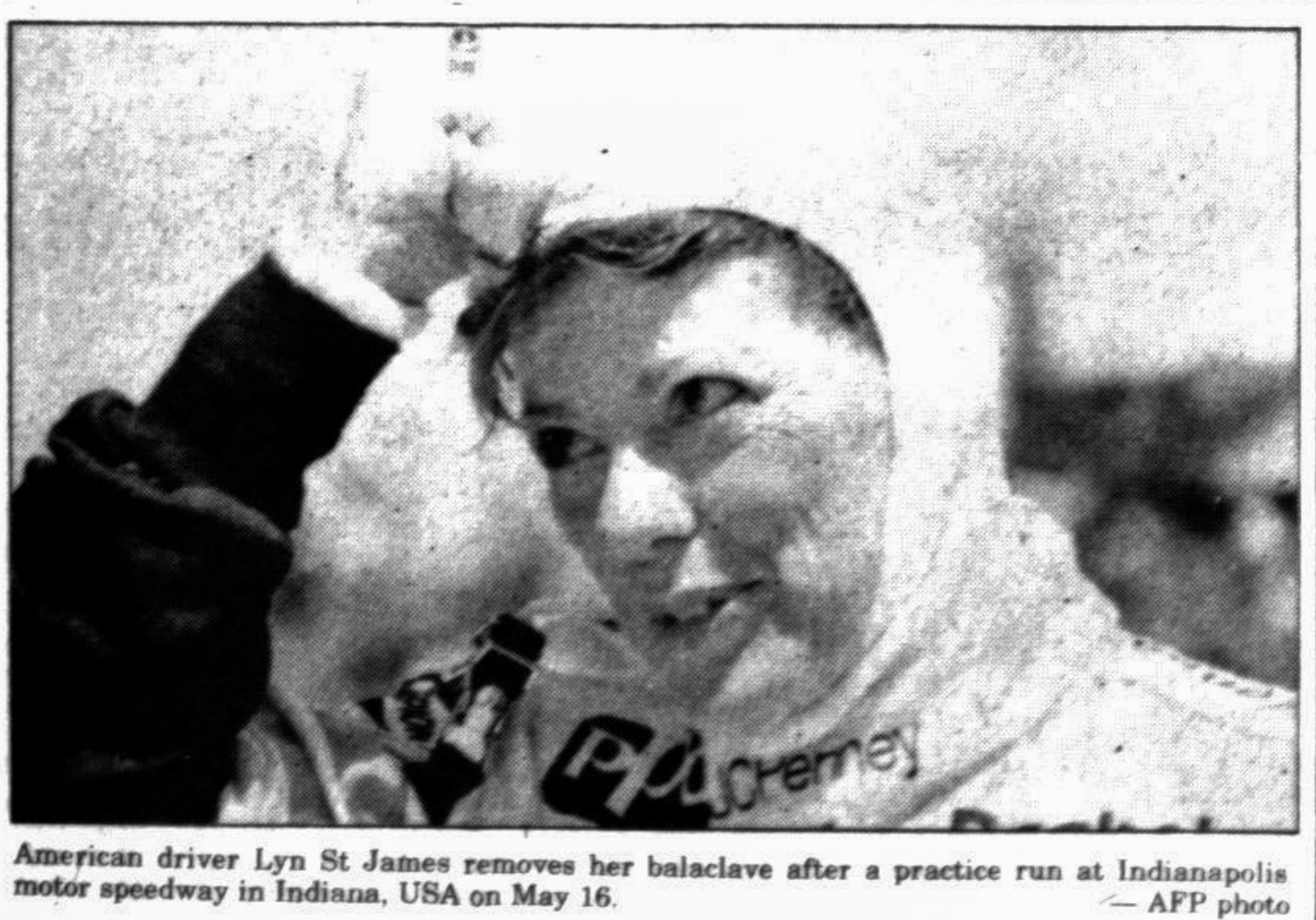
A one-time travelling shoe salesman who had failed to make the grade as a professional player himself, Sacchi's obsessive nature finally brought him into head-on collision with leading players such as Van Basten and he left Milan in 1991.

But the Italian Soccer Federation soon summoned him to lift the spirits of a team who had surprisingly failed to qualify for the 1992 European Championship finals.

Sacchi guided Italy to the World Cup finals without undue alarm, although his press critics were swift to point out that the results disguised some fairly ordinary performances.

Unhappy with the media attacks, Sacchi has become increasingly prickly with critics who have in turn used the recent setbacks as a welcome stick with which to beat him.

The coach has called up 70 players to his various squads, prompting criticism that he does not know his best team.



American driver Lyn St James removes her balaclava after a practice run at Indianapolis motor speedway in Indiana, USA on May 16. — AFP photo

Maradona respects Japan's stance

SANTIAGO, May 18: Argentine soccer superstar Diego Maradona on Tuesday said he's not angry at Japanese authorities who banned him from entering Japan because of his past drug problems, reports AP.

"Each country has its own laws, and while I don't approve of that Japanese law, we all must respect it," the 33-year-old player told reporters as he arrived.

Japan officials refused a visa to Maradona last week, prompting the Argentine Soccer Federation to cancel two games scheduled there as part of its national squad preparation for the upcoming World Cup in the United States.

Instead, the Argentine team will play Chile here Wednesday.

Maradona also dismissed criticism by some Argentine newspapers after he and other team members were seen at a Buenos Aires discotheque late Saturday.

"Everybody owns his own life," he told reporters. "I just went out with my wife to drink something, and I have the right to do that."

"We are all adults and we know how we must take care of ourselves while preparing for the World Cup," he added.

Maradona talked to reporters at the Santiago airport after the two-hour flight from Buenos Aires, the Argentine capital.

He told reporters he is "fine, real fit" for the World Cup.

"We really appreciate the opportunity to play the Chileans, because this match will be very important as a warm up," he said.

"We have to continue the development as a team."

"I hope me and my teammates will offer a fine soccer show tomorrow," he added.

Caniggia sidelined

BUENOS AIRES, May 18: Claudio Caniggia, back from a 13-month ban for cocaine use, will miss Argentina's friendly with Chile in Santiago on Wednesday, reports AFP.

However, Diego Maradona, whose criminal conviction for cocaine use led to Argentina pulling out of a tournament in Japan because he was refused a visa, will be fit to play.

Argentine coach Alfio Basile said Caniggia had a leg strain and he did not want to take any chances.

Ramon Medina Bellow, who plays for Yokohama Marinos in Japan, may be given a trial.

They play Israel at Tel Aviv on May 31 and Croatia in Zagreb on June 4.

DPRK refuse

TOKYO, May 18: North Korea said Wednesday it would not take part in team events at the Asian Games to be held in October in Hiroshima, Japan, according to the Asian Olympic Organising Committee, reports AFP.

Pak Myong-Chol, president of the North Korean Olympic Committee, announced the decision by fax without giving any reasons to the organising committee earlier Wednesday, a spokesman said.

North Korea, absent from major international sporting events for a year, had failed to make the May 5 entry deadline for team events at the quadrennial regional Olympics.

England gun Greece down

LONDON, May 18: Captain David Platt scored twice as England, who are not going to the World Cup, crushed qualifiers Greece 5-0 at Wembley on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Darren Anderton, 1986 and 1990 World Cup veteran Peter Beardsley and Platt scored between the 24th and 45th minutes as the Greek defence wilted under the English pace.

Three halftime substitutions, including a 74th Greek record-equalling cap for striker Dimitrios Saravakos, did little to improve Greece's chances of finding a way back into a one-sided contest.

Platt, whose first-half goal was a penalty, headed his 23rd goal in 47 internationals nine minutes after the interval as coach Terry Venables celebrated his second successive victory since taking charge.

Striker Alan Shearer scored the fifth goal 11 minutes later with a crisp grass cutting shot that went under beleaguered Greek goalkeeper Chiristos Karkamanis, playing in only his second international.

On this performance, Greece must be the whipping boys in the Boston-based World Cup Group D, which includes two-time winners Argentina, Bulgaria and Nigeria.

They had just one shot on target all night, a sixth-minute drive from their most positive player, Nikos Tsiantakis.

England goalkeeper Tim Flowers, like his opposite number playing in only his second international, did not have a single save to make after the break. Long-distance shots from Tsiantakis, 36-year-old Tassos Mitropoulos and



Colombia Baggio's favourite

ROME, May 18: European footballer-of-the-year Roberto Baggio has tipped Colombia as candidates to win the World Cup and said Italy's first-round opponents Mexico could be surprise contenders, reports Reuters.

"Watch out for Colombia. They play the most attractive soccer in the world and could win the tournament," Baggio told Gazzetta Dello Sport on Wednesday.

"Mexico could be the surprise," he added. Italy play the Mexicans in their third and final Group E match in Washington on June 28.

The Italian said Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla plus Barcelona attackers Romario and Hristo Stoichkov would be the stars of the tournament. Romario is Brazilian while his club-mate will lead the Bulgarian attack.

Baggio said three-times world champions Italy were aiming at least for a place in the semifinals.

"Three points for a win the group games will be a good thing and lead to more positive soccer," he added.

The Italian applauded plans to make the tackle from behind a sending-off offence in the finals. "It's almost always a cowardly foul which can cause serious injury."

The Italian outfield players have been assigned shirt numbers by alphabetical order but exception has been made for captain Franco Baresi — who gets his customary number six — and Baggio, who will wear his favourite 10.



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COMPETITION RULES

INTRODUCTION:

A. The Daily Star World Cup Quiz94, is a series of (6) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football. Sets of questions will be published for 10 (ten) consecutive days in the Sports Page of The Daily Star for the first (5) Quiz Competitions. For the last and final Bumper Quiz Competition, a set of questions will be published for one month in the Sports Page of The Daily Star according to the schedule (Fixture of the Rounds) as fixed by the Daily Star authorities.

B. For the first (5) Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and (5)th consolation prizes. The prizes will be Colour TV, Black & White TV, Super Turbo 2-in-1 Stereo Recorder and light bulbs respectively.

C. Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes, will have to be borne by the winners.

D. Names and addresses of all prizewinners will be published in The Daily Star. Winners will be responsible for collecting their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.

E. For the Bumper Quiz Competition, there will be the **BUMPER PRIZE** consisting of a ticket to the World Cup Final match, along with an Economy Class return air ticket (Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka) and an amount for incidental expenses. The Daily Star does NOT take any responsibility for any visa or other travel documents that may be required. The **BUMPER PRIZE** Winner will have to make his/her own arrangements in this regard. In case of the Bumper Prize winner's inability to travel to the USA, he/she may choose to receive a sum of **Tk.100,000/-** in cash in lieu of the air fare and living expenses.

RULES

1. Residents of Bangladesh subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate in the Daily Star World Cup Quiz94. All personnel and family members of The Daily Star, Transcom Electronics Ltd. and Unirent (advertising agency) and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in the Daily Star World Cup Quiz94.

2. Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.

3. Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box which they think is the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries in his/her own name and address.

4. Each entry form should be clearly filled-in complete with a ball-point pen. Participant's name, address, father's name must be clearly written. Each entry form must bear the correct date and signature of the participant.

5. Participants must ensure the following: All entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "STAR QUIZ". Entries may be hand delivered or sent by post to: The Daily Star, House No:11, Road No:8, Dhanmendi Residential Area, Dhaka-1205.

6. Entries will be opened by The Daily Star authorities. Entries with all correct answers will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw, to be held on the notified/appointed date in public in the presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.

7. The Daily Star authorities, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or rescind any and all dates of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz94 in any circumstances.

8. All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guide-lines as may be issued, from time to time, by The Daily Star authorities. Participants' entry in the quiz competition shall be construed as their respective agreement to all such rules, instructions and guide-lines.

9. Any decision of The Daily Star authorities in the conduct of the Quiz Competition (including the answers selected as correct) shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

Quiz 5.

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct.

1. Which one of these countries was eliminated from the 1974 WC without losing a match?	Italy <input type="checkbox"/>	Chile <input type="checkbox"/>	Scotland <input type="checkbox"/>
2. When was the red card first used in a World Cup?	1970 <input type="checkbox"/>	1974 <input type="checkbox"/>	1978 <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Who is credited with the first-ever World Cup hattrick?	Fontaine <input type="checkbox"/>	Dorado <input type="checkbox"/>	Stabile <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Who scored the first hattrick in a World Cup Final?	Pele <input type="checkbox"/>	Pioli <input type="checkbox"/>	Hurst <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who was the first player to get a red card in a WC Final?	Garrincha <input type="checkbox"/>	Dezotti <input type="checkbox"/>	Monzon <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Who scored Germany's winning goal in the 1990 WC Final?	Klinsmann <input type="checkbox"/>	Voeller <input type="checkbox"/>	Brehme <input type="checkbox"/>
7. How many World Cup appearances did Pele make?	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	14 <input type="checkbox"/>	16 <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Which country played in the 1978 World Cup after a gap of 20 years?	Austria <input type="checkbox"/>	France <input type="checkbox"/>	Peru <input type="checkbox"/>
9. When was the first-ever goalless draw in a World Cup?	1938 <input type="checkbox"/>	1958 <input type="checkbox"/>	1978 <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Who captained the World Cup-winning German team in 1954?	Rahn <input type="checkbox"/>	F Walter <input type="checkbox"/>	O Walter <input type="checkbox"/>

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

FATHER'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

OCCUPATION _____ SIGNATURE _____

Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!